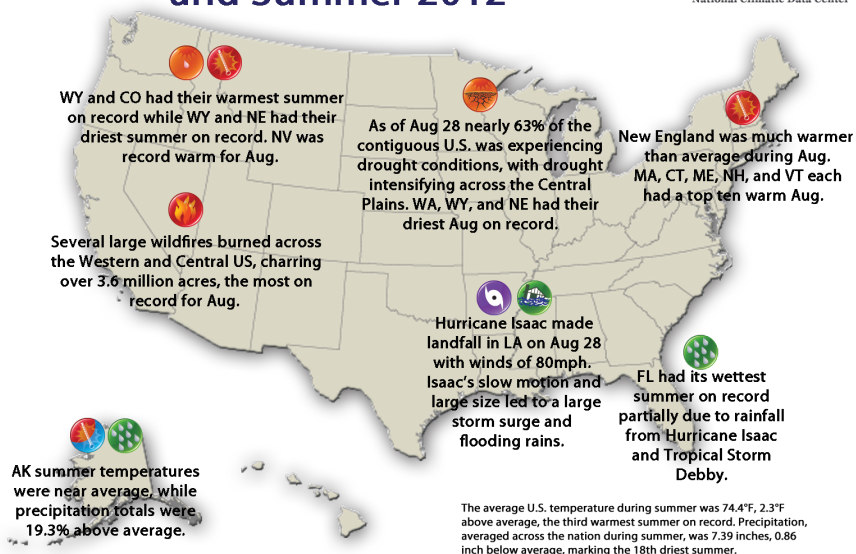


National - Significant Events for June - August 2012

Significant Events for August and Summer 2012



Extreme Drought Reemerges in the Southern Plains

Oklahoma

- 91% of the state in **extreme drought** on September 1st, up from 3% on June 1st
- 150,000+ acres burned by wildfires in 2012

Texas

- 21% of the state in **extreme drought** on September 1st, up from 10% on June 1st
- Many reservoirs in West Texas below last year's levels – some at or near 0% capacity

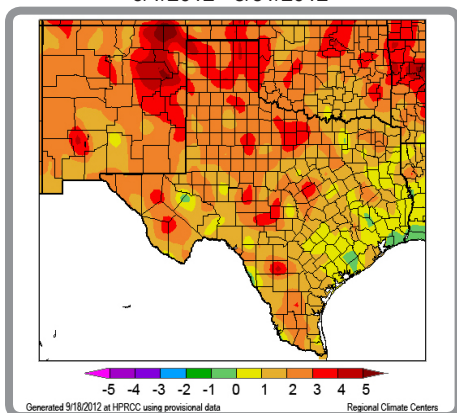
New Mexico

- State's major reservoir, Elephant Butte, at **less than 10% capacity** on Sep 1st
- 370,000+ acres burned by wildfires in 2012

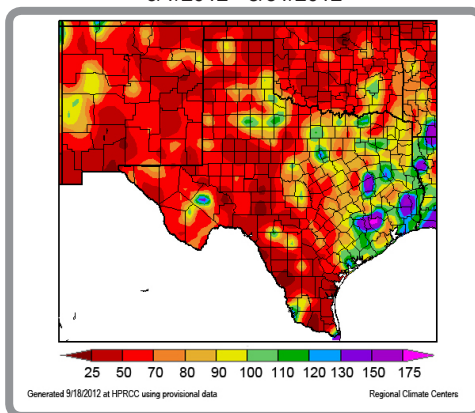
Regional - Climate Overview for June - August 2012

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)
6/1/2012 - 8/31/2012

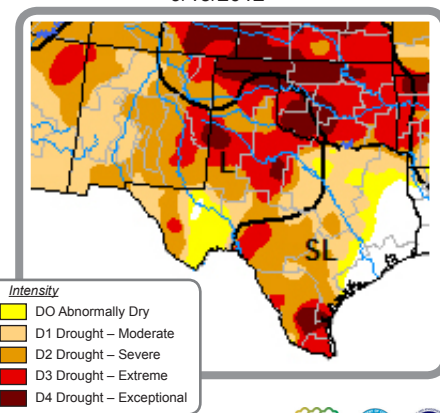


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/1/2012 - 8/31/2012



Drought

US Drought Monitor
9/13/2012



Temperature and Precipitation Rankings

| | Jun 1st-Aug 31st | Jan 1st-Aug 31st | Sep 2010-Aug 2012 |
|------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Oklahoma | 12th warmest | HOTTEST | HOTTEST |
| Texas | 10th warmest | 3rd warmest | HOTTEST |
| New Mexico | 3rd warmest | 2nd warmest | HOTTEST |
| Oklahoma | 17th driest | 35th driest | 9th driest |
| Texas | 39th driest | 67th driest | 5th driest |
| New Mexico | 8th driest | 5th driest | DRIEST |

Provisional data courtesy of High Plains Regional Climate Center, (www.hprcc.unl.edu) and the U.S. Drought Portal, (www.drought.gov)

Above-average temperatures (above, left) and below-average precipitation (above, middle) both contributed to intense summer drought conditions in the Southern Great Plains (above, right).

2011 and 2012 have been two of the warmest years on record in the Southern Plains (left). Records date back to 1895.

Regional Highlight - The Historic 2010 – 2012 Drought Continues

Climate Extremes

Since October 1st 2010 – the approximate beginning of the current historic drought – nearly all locations in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico have received substantially below-average precipitation (right). Conditions have been further exacerbated by exceptional heat across much of the region.

Oklahoma and Texas

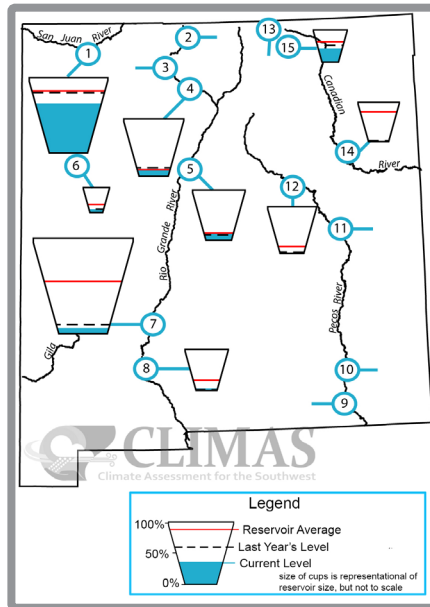
- Both states had driest 24-month period since 1956 (ending Aug 31st)
- Oklahoma on pace for its **warmest year on record** (since 1895)

New Mexico

- 24-month period ending Aug 31st was both **driest** and **warmest on record** (since 1895)

Water Resources

Among the most significant impacts of the combination of historic dryness and heat has been the reduction in reservoir capacity in New Mexico and Texas.

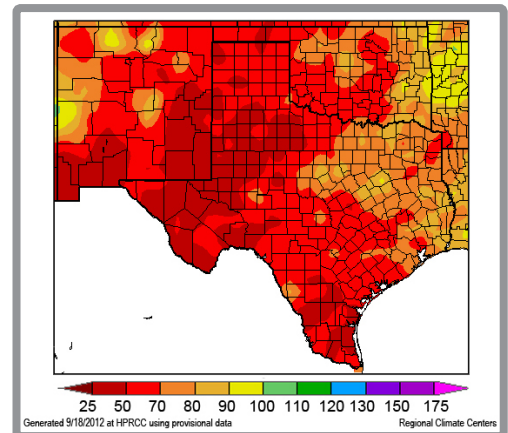


Above: www.climas.arizona.edu; conditions on August 31st

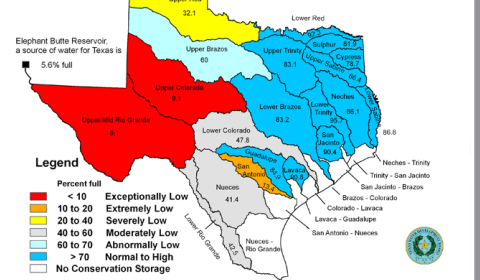
Top right: www.hprcc.unl.edu; Sep 2010 thru August 2012

Bottom right: www.twdb.state.tx.us; conditions on September 18th

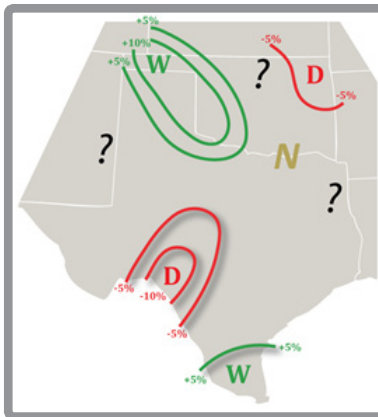
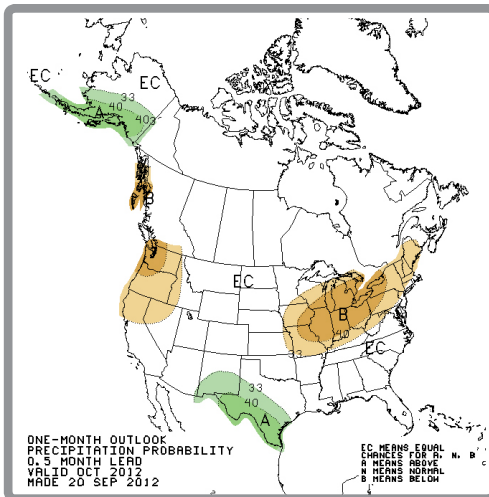
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2010 – 8/31/2012



Reservoir Storage Index*



Regional Outlook - for Fall Season



Official NOAA October Precipitation Outlook

- For October, there is an **increased probability** of above-normal precipitation in portions of **south and east Texas**
- There are **equal chances** of either above- or below-normal precipitation in **Oklahoma and New Mexico**

Looking Forward: Regional Fall Forecast

- Borderline **El Nino-like** conditions are likely to persist through at least December
- There are **increased chances** of wet conditions in the **Texas and Oklahoma panhandles**
- There are **decreased chances** of wet conditions in **southwest Texas** and **eastern Oklahoma**

Southern Plains Partners

Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences

cires.colorado.edu

Climate Assessment for the Southwest
climas.arizona.edu

DOI South Central Climate Science Center

doi.gov/csc/southcentral

National Drought Mitigation Center

drought.unl.edu

National Integrated Drought Information System

drought.gov

NOAA/NESDIS National Climatic Data Center

ncdc.noaa.gov

NOAA/NWS Southern Region

srh.noaa.gov

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center

cpc.noaa.gov

NOAA/OAR Physical Sciences Division

esrl.noaa.gov/psd

NOAA Regional Collaboration Teams

regions.noaa.gov

Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program

southernclimate.org

Southern Regional Climate Center

srcc.lsu.edu

State Climatologists

stateclimate.org

Texas Water Development Board

twdb.state.tx.us

Western Governors Association

westgov.org

Western Regional Climate Center

wrcc.dri.edu